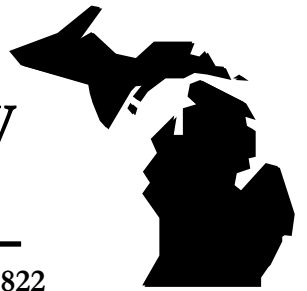




UNITED STATES SENATOR · MICHIGAN  
**DEBBIE STABENOW**  
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## **Stabenow Issues Statement on Yucca Mountain**

WASHINGTON—Earlier today, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) issued the following statement regarding her position on transporting high level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain, Nevada:

*“Since the tragic events in New York, Pennsylvania and the Pentagon, Administration officials have repeatedly warned us about future attacks. Specifically, on May 19, 2002, Vice President Cheney stated on “Meet the Press” that the prospects of a future terrorist attack against the United States is “almost certain” and “not a matter of if, but when.” Furthermore, on June 10, 2002, the American people became aware of a plot to potentially detonate a so-called “dirty bomb” which could kill thousands of people and send poisonous nuclear matter throughout the air exposing hundreds of thousands of more people to nuclear radiation.*

*These developments put the issue of transporting nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain in a brand new light. Specifically, I have been studying how the nuclear waste from Michigan’s four storage sites would be transported across Michigan to Yucca Mountain and how the Federal government would ensure that it is completely protected from a terrorist attack.*

*As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I supported the concept of a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain. However, the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and our ongoing war against terrorism have changed the course of our country forever, and I do not believe that it is in the best interest of this country or my constituents for me to support the Yucca Mountain resolution at this time, without more specific plans for addressing these national security issues.*

*The opening of Yucca Mountain will generate thousands of nuclear waste shipments by truck, rail or barge through cities and towns across the country; however the Department of Energy (DOE) is only beginning to look at developing a transportation plan and designating transport routes. I am also concerned that the DOE has not implemented any additional security requirements for transporting nuclear waste since September 11th to ensure the safety of Americans and to prevent a terrorist attack of these shipments.*

*I am deeply troubled that no government agency has conducted full-scale physical tests of the casks that will be used to transport nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain, nor have these testing requirements been reviewed or strengthened to take into account how the casks will perform under a potential terrorist attack. I am also concerned about the Bush Administration’s*

*actions to weaken environmental regulations that directly affect the safety surrounding the siting of Yucca Mountain. This is part of an ongoing pattern by this Administration of weakening important regulations that safeguard our public health and the environment, in order to benefit special interests.*

*And, last but certainly not least, as a strong advocate for the Great Lakes, I find it disturbing that the DOE's Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) describes barging nuclear waste on the Great Lakes as a transportation option. The Final EIS estimates as many as 431 barge shipments of nuclear waste could occur on Lake Michigan. When I asked the Secretary of Energy in a June 20, 2002 letter to respond to the possible barging of the waste, he stated that the DOE "has made no decision on the matter." This simply is not a good enough answer. I cannot support any plan that would include a transportation option that endangers 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the world's fresh water supply, and the source of safe drinking water for the entire Great Lakes region.*

*The U.S. Senate is being asked to vote on the Yucca Mountain resolution before the end of this July. This vote will be the last time Congress will have a real voice on this issue, and this resolution would allow the DOE to move forward with the opening of Yucca Mountain without any further Congressional action. Based on my examination of the DOE's Final EIS and other information, I do not feel that the Bush Administration has a safety plan for transporting waste to Yucca Mountain that protects Michigianians or the Great Lakes, and therefore, I cannot support the Yucca Mountain resolution."*